

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19, with the following paragraph:

Q7
However, it is not easy to multiplex the optical signals having narrow wavelength intervals while maintaining their polarization states. When an existing optical device is considered, such as an arrayed waveguide grating (hereinafter referred to as AWG), it is relatively easy to multiplex a plurality of optical signals in the identical polarization state while maintaining their polarization state, but it is very difficult to realize the multiplexing when they are in different polarization states. Besides, even if an optical device is realized which is capable of multiplexing such optical signals, its cost will be very high.